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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

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DFA SUGGESTS METHODS TO GET SCARCE SUPPLIES

The recently-established Defense Fisheries Administration is being deluged with requests from commercial fishermen and processors for a blanket priority rating to apply to orders for supplies and equipment which they require to conduct their business, according to a statement made today by Administrator Albert M. Day.

To clarify the situation, Administrator Day has described the procedure now in effect and outlined the steps that commercial fishery interests can take to obtain materials now in short supply.

The present NPA policy does not provide for nor require priority ratings on normal civilian orders, emphasized Mr. Day. "It is true that construction of certain non-essential facilities is prohibited, the use of certain materials is restricted as to end use or to varying percentages of a base period, and there is no doubt that additional restrictions will be instituted. In general, however, and except for a few specific directives, it is the present policy of NPA that rearmament orders only shall be given "DO" (Defense Order) ratings and that the remaining supplies shall be distributed as equitably as possible through normal channels among their usual customers for all permitted uses."

To accomplish this, Mr. Day explained, NPA has limited the percentage of rated orders that manufacturers must accept and is attempting to distribute this load as evenly as possible so that the bulk of supplies shall flow through normal channels with no ratings asked or given.

To help fishermen or fish processors to get needed materials, Mr. Day offers the following suggestions:

1. Familiarize yourself with NPA regulatory orders to determine what controls now exist. (The Defense Fisheries Administration has already publicized the fact that the Department of Commerce maintains free mailing lists and has enumerated the Commerce offices where individual help may be obtained.)
2. Give serious consideration to whether you can substitute a less critical and more easily available material.
3. Look for alternative suppliers who may be able to book your orders.
4. Determine whether your suppliers' refusals to book orders are based on actual incapacity or on a misunderstanding of current regulations which perhaps can be overcome with the assistance of local Department of Commerce officials.

"If all these measures fail," declared Mr. Day, "the Defense Fisheries Administration will welcome a complete recital of the facts. This should include quantity and specifications of the item, the suppliers contacted and reasons given for not accepting the order, the end-use and essentiality of the item, and the deadline for delivery. This information will not only be valuable in keeping DFA posted as to how critical material shortages are, but is essential to any effort to obtain concrete assistance in finding a source of supply for a critical item."